



OREGON

The Chalkboard Project
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Program Overview

The Chalkboard Project, a nonprofit organization in Oregon, is funding the implementation of an alternative compensation initiative in three Oregon school districts: Forest Grove School District, Sherwood School District, and Tillamook School District #9. The initiative, known as Creative Leadership and Student Success (CLASS), provides planning grants for districts to design a pay program that includes four components: expanded career paths, comprehensive and fair performance evaluations, professional development opportunities, and new leadership roles. The initiative requires each district to design its own program based on communication with teachers, administrators, school board members, and parents. Sherwood School District and Tillamook School District #9 received funding to implement their programs in April 2008 and Forest Grove School District received additional funding to continue its planning process in May 2008. The Meyers Family Trust funded a \$1.5 million grant, the Ford Family Foundation funded \$500,000 and the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation funded an additional \$500,000 to The Chalkboard Project to distribute to districts implementing CLASS.

In 2008, political activist Bill Sizemore introduced Ballot Measure 60, which, if passed, would base teacher pay on student performance alone, and no longer on seniority. Though Measure 60 made sense in theory, Chalkboard and other educational groups spoke out against it, claiming it to be “vague and poorly worded, and full of unintended consequences” (Stutzman, 2008). Because the measure did not specify how teachers would be evaluated, opponents were concerned that the Measure would place even more weights on standardized tests as the sole outcome measure; at the time, there were no initiatives in place to develop other forms of teacher evaluation. Measure 60 was on the ballot in November, 2008, and was defeated.

Program Information

- [Chalkboard CLASS Project Website](#)
- [Forest Grove School District CLASS Grant](#)
- [Sherwood School District CLASS Grant](#)
- [Tillamook School District Website](#)



Select Articles and Reports

- *StatemanJournal.com* (October 29, 2008). ['Simplest Solution' Is Most Harmful to Students.](#)
- *Headlight Herald.* (May 20, 2008). [CLASS Project Has Tillamook School District Setting the Curve.](#)
- Oregon Public Broadcasting (April 28, 2008). [Homeroom Economics.](#)
- *The Sherwood Gazette.* (April 24, 2008). [\\$2 Million Grant Gives Teachers New Options.](#)
- *The Forest Grove News Times.* (June 13, 2007). [District Earmarks "Chalkboard" Money as a Way to Invest in Its Teachers' Futures](#)